# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4500
ANSWERED ON:17.04.2001
CONSULTATION SESSION ORGANISED BY PRAYAS
GADDE RAMAMOHAN;M.V.V.S MURTHI;SHIVAJI MANE

**Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

(a) whether a two day consultation session on trafficking of women and children in South Asian region organized by 'Prayas' in collaboration with UNIFEM recently;

(b) if so, the details of participants alongwith the suggestion and recommendations made by them; and

(c) the response of the Government thereto and the steps taken/proposed to be taken to stop such trafficking ?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN)

(a) Yes, Sir. A Regional Consultation on Trafficking of Women and Children and Law Enforcement was organized by Prayas in New Delhi on February 20-21,2001 in collaboration with UNIFEM.

(b) The Consultation was participated by delegates from Bangladesh, Srilanka, Nepal, besides representatives from UN bodies, members of judiciary, and police force and NGOs. The main recommendations that emerged from the Regional Consultation include bilateral agreement between countries for repatriation of victims, prevention and addressing of issues such as poverty, increasing vigilance by police at borders, mobilizing tourism industry against commercial exploitation of women and children and promotion of gender equality for reintegration of victims into families and communities.

(c) The Government is very much concerned about the phenomenon of inter-country and intra-country trafficking in women and children and has formulated a National Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Women and Children through strategies that cover prevention, legislation and law enforcement, provision of basic services to the vicitims of prostitution, rescue and rehabilitation, awareness generation and social mobilization. The SAARC Countries have drafted a Regional Convention on Prevention and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for the purposes of prostitution. The Convention seeks to take measures and encourage cooperation amongst the SAARC member countries to prevent the incidence of trafficking.